Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6248 INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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DEPT PLEASE PASS FOR ARPA DIRECTOR HEILMEIER FROM AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, US, MARR

SUBJ: ARPA OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

REF: DEF ARPA 032259Z JUL 75

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ON ARPA'S AUSTRALIAN OFFICE. MY CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF THE OFFICE WAS MOTIVATED BY THE FACT THAT THE GOA ATTACHES (AS DO I) A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO ITS TIES WITH ARPA, AND THE ARPA OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA AS A VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THIS RELATIONSHIP. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF THE OFFICE WITH MINISTER FOR DEFENSE MORRISON; DR. JOHN FERRANDS, THE CHIEF DEFENSE SCIENTIST AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND WITHGORDON BLAKERS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. ALL THREE MEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S ASSOCIATION WITH ARPA AND HOW STRONGLY THEY WISHED THIS ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE. ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER HAND, ALL AGREED THAT AN ARPA OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

WAS NOT ESSENTIAL SO LONG AS ARPA CONTINUES TO HAVE AN ACTIVE ASSOCIATION WITH AUSTRALIA. I UNDERSTAND FROM AL VAN EVERY THAT HE DOES NOT FEEL IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN OFFICE HERE BEYOND DECEMBER IN VIEW OF FALL-OFF OF WORKLOAD AND PROGRAM. I AM INCLINED TO AGREE WITH AL, BUT I TRUST THAT OFFICE CLOSURE WILL NOT MARK THE END OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT US LINK-UP WITH AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE SCIENCE.

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ARPA DIRECTOR HEILMEIER

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